

To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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JOHN McELROY, Editor.
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The earthquake was not felt in Panama, which is much comfort for friends of the canal.

From the pictures which are being published of Gov. Hoch we cannot blame a woman for getting angry at his attempt to kiss her. It was a wonder she wasn't scared to death.

Maxim Gorky is writing his impressions of America. His first and strongest must be the story-heartedness of hotel clerks who refuse to allow their houses to be openly used for immoral purposes.

Mighty few women can scare as many by threatening to tell all she knows as Cassie Chadwick. Every time the reporters make a visit to the Ohio Penitentiary cold chills chase along the spines of eminent financiers in Cleveland.

After all, Castro knows enough to pick out some one of his size. After threatening to fight the United States, France, Italy and sundry others, he turns around and pitches on to Colombia, which has never been able to get even into the feather-weight class.

It is calculated that there are at least 10,000,000 cubic yards of debris to be cleared out of San Francisco, and by the ordinary methods this will take five years or more. A plan has been suggested to use cable cars, by which it can be done in eight months.

The Aetna Fire Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., reports that its loss in San Francisco is \$2,700,000 on a total amount of insurance of \$4,400,000 carried by the company. This gives some basis upon which to guess at the losses of the other companies.

The sensationalists have been trying to work up a revolution in Cuba, but a careful inspection of the eastern end of the island shows that there is absolutely no basis for such an expectation. The Cubans seem to be getting along unexpectedly well with their new Government.

Mayor Dixon, of Savannah, Ga., says with that heartfelt earnestness characteristic of a thoroughly reconstructed and loyal son of the South, "If it were left to me, I'd have Father Sherman hung before he reached Savannah." All these things are pleasant echoes of the President's visit to his mother's native State.

The first man to register as a lobbyist under the new law in New York was a minister of the Gospel, who announced that he was a lobbyist for the suppression of gambling and kindred vices. He set a good example of promptness, and if it is followed by the agents of corruption a great deal of good will be accomplished.

Justice's leaden feet have caught up with Henry C. Goll, former Cashier of the First National Bank of Milwaukee, and President Bigelow's chief assistant in wrecking the bank. Goll goes to the Leavenworth Penitentiary for 10 years. Isn't it time for some one to say something about the big criminals always going free?

The National Druggist is violently alarmed over the alleged formation of a "physicians' trust," with the 5,600 members of the American Medical Association controlling not only the 150,000 doctors in the country, but all the druggists. The first point of attack is to be the sale of patent or proprietary medicines by the druggists.

It is pointed out by the boomers of Senator Knox that Pennsylvania has not had a Presidential candidate since Hancock ran against Garfield in 1880, which will be 28 years in 1908. She has never had one President—Buchanan—elected 50 years ago. With all the good men there are among Pennsylvania's 6,000,000 the pie plate ought to come around more frequently.

The center of population in the United States has steadily moved westward along the 39th parallel, never getting more than 16.5 minutes north of it nor three minutes south of it. It is now near Columbus, Ind., 519 miles west of where it was in 1790—23 miles east of Baltimore. The center of the negro population is at Rome, Ga., and moving toward the Gulf.

The victory of the American athletes in the Olympic games at Athens is another triumph for American manhood. The final score gives the United States 75 points and Great Britain and the British Colonies 39 points, with Greece and Sweden tied for the third place. There may be degenerates in this country, but there is a finer lot of the strong, sturdy old stock than any other country in the world can boast of.

The International Waterways Commission for the preservation of Niagara has completed and published its report. It recommends that exclusive of water required for domestic use and for the canal locks that the diversions be limited to 36,000 cubic feet per second on the Canadian and 18,000 cubic feet per second on the United States side, and that a treaty of legislation be concluded enforcing these limits.

MORE SOUTHERN HYSTERIA.

For three-quarters of a century at least Southern politicians have played incessantly and effectively upon one chord. This was that the North was always grievously oppressing, insulting and abusing the South. They have kept their people in a constant state of inflammation over allegations of wrongs and injuries from the North. Words fail to express the volume of indignation that they aroused over the North "stealing their niggers," yet the statistics will show that the number of fugitive slaves lost to the South did not, up until the outbreak of the war, reach over 1,500. The total value of the same did not equal the number of horses and other stock stolen in almost any well-settled State in the North. Yet it was made to appear that the whole North was engaged in wickedly and criminally depriving every man in the South of his valuable property. The tariff always was a fruitful theme upon which to dilate upon the Northerners robbing the Southerners of their own aggrandizement, and this precipitated the nullification troubles of 1832. Next came the intolerable grievance of not being allowed to take their slaves into the Territories. It was made to appear that every man in the South was suffering keenly because he was not allowed to take his slaves into Kansas and Nebraska. As a matter of statistics not one man in 40 in the South owned slaves, and probably not one in a thousand wanted to take his slaves to the new countries beyond the Mississippi. These alleged grievances, however, were sufficient to bring about the war, and then the war furnished them with an abundance of others.

Not, however, since Booker Washington took lunch with the President has there been anything by which the "Southern heart has been fired" so successfully as by a proposition by Father Sherman to revisit the campaigning grounds of his father attended by an escort of United States troops.

A number of officers were to make a practice march over the fields of the Atlanta campaign attended by a small cavalry escort. Father Sherman was invited to accompany the party. These practice marches for the purpose of studying the operations of the war are made every Summer by officers of the Army, and are in every way commendable. The politicians of the South saw an opportunity, from the presence of Father Sherman, to throw some successful fits, and they did so. All over the South, and particularly in Georgia, swept a storm of protest against "the gratuitous insults to the Southern people" involved in sending the son of Gen. Sherman with an escort of United States troops over the ground over which his father's army swept in the March to the Sea. There were shrieks and vociferations led by United States Senators and Representatives as to recalling the outrages and cruelties perpetrated upon the innocent and defenseless people of Georgia by the March to the Sea. Again there was absolutely no basis for this. The orders to the commander at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, seem to have been to furnish the officers and Father Sherman with an escort of cavalrymen to accompany them from Chattanooga to Atlanta. This did not mean the March to the Sea by any means, for the Atlanta campaign was over and done months before the March to the Sea began.

The campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta was one of the greatest operations in the history of military science, and it can be well studied with advantage to history and to the art of war. It cannot be too much studied, because the highest principles of the art of war were exemplified by the two great Captains opposing each other, William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston, and the magnificent armies under their command. The Confederates should be proud of that campaign, of the splendid ability with which it was conducted by Gen. Johnston and his subordinates and the magnificent fighting of the Confederate forces during those momentous 100 days. The more the campaign is studied the better it will appear for all parties to it, and the object of the practice march was a laudable one and should have received cordial support.

As everyone knows, the March to the Sea began at Atlanta in November, the campaign for the capture of that city having closed Sept. 1, 1864. That famous march was a very spectacular thing, but its unpleasant features have been grossly exaggerated to the South. In place of being a destructive raid it is doubtful if ever a march of that length by an army was accomplished with as little real loss to the people. This is cold history which all the ravings of the Southern politicians and the people of Georgia cannot alter. After the fall of Atlanta the Georgia militia was dismissed to their homes to gather their crops. They got them safely housed just in time for Sherman to come along and appropriate them for the support of his army. Sherman's army made a pretty clean swath for a front of 60 miles through the heart of the agricultural region of Georgia, and undoubtedly left little corn, sorghum, cattle, pigs and chickens in its wake. Beyond this the loss to the people was very little. The march was too swift and too well-regulated to allow miscellaneous plundering and burning. All the men in the columns were veteran soldiers, and there was singularly few of the camp-followers and irregular bands which usually accompany an army and who are the great affliction to a country through which it passes. All these had been cleaned out when the army was stripped to the skin for march and battle. Kentucky, for example, suffered incomparably more during the war than central Georgia did by Sherman's march. In Kentucky the camp-followers, guerrillas and similar robbers hanging around both armies were in the State from the beginning of the war to the end, and inflicted incalculable damage. Sherman's army, on the other hand, took little beyond what they wanted to eat or ride, and the damage done was easily repaired in a year or two. At most, they swept over less than a quarter of the State, leaving the country on either side of them absolutely untouched. About half of the march, that from Millen to Savannah, was through a barren country, where there was hardly enough raised to supply the scanty population, and during that time Sherman's army had to live on what it had gathered from the country in the rear. Only when they came within a short distance of Savannah did they find any supplies. The stories of robberies and plunderings are mostly imaginary, and belong to that class of fiction cherished by the South in regard to the negroes. Every man and woman who was born south of Mason and Dixon's line has an incurable tendency to tell of the number of negroes his or her father owned, and his impoverishment by their loss on account of the war. Everyone knows that there were at most 250,000 slave owners in the South, of whom more than one-fourth owned but one negro.

It is unpleasant to relate that President Roosevelt was so affected by this foolish clamor and took so little time to investigate the facts of the case that he called the practice march off and the troops ordered back to Fort McPherson. It would have been a great deal more sensible as well as dignified in him to have simply poo-pooed the noise as it deserved. Father Sherman is, properly, president, and so angry that he has withdrawn from all relations to the expedition and taken up his quarters with friends in Georgia.

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THE PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

The Pan-American Congress to be held at Rio Janeiro in July will be a great achievement for our State Department, and cannot help being of signal benefit in bringing all the Americans into closer relations. The program which has been prepared by the Committee, consisting of Secretary Root, the Brazilian and Mexican Embassadors and the Ministers from Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba and the Argentine Republic, has already been announced. It contemplates the discussion of questions as to copyrights, patents, trade-marks, sanitary police, quarantine, Pan-American Railway, customs and consular law, development of commercial intercourse, naturalization laws, and the codification of international law. It is expected that the Congress will go beyond the academic discussion of these subjects and arrive at general principles which, if not actually embodied in treaties, will be so well understood as to become the bases for the relations among the different countries, and thereby greatly promote intercourse and commerce. One of the most interesting questions to come up is that of the so-called Calvo doctrine, which relates to the propriety of Governmental action for the enforcement by foreign Governments of the claims of private individuals. It is presumed that this will be formally presented to the Hague Conference for consideration. Whatever looks to a closer acquaintance and more frequent intercourse among the Nations on the two continents is a matter of the highest import to the prosperity and development of all of them, and the proceedings of the Congress will therefore be watched with the greatest interest.

INSURANCE LIABILITIES.

A curious and hitherto unthought-of provision in the California insurance laws complicates the insurance situation and discourages the policy-holders. It reads: Section 2628—Excepted Risks—When a peril is specially excepted in a contract of insurance a loss which would not have occurred but for such peril is thereby excepted, although the immediate cause of loss was a peril which was not excepted.

This section has passed through the courts and been declared constitutional. It may afford the basis for most, if not all, of the companies evading payment. The claim can and will be made that the fire was caused by the earthquake, and consequently the companies are not liable for any damage resulting therefrom. As Horace Greeley once said pithily, "This being common sense is probably not law." It is hard to believe that the men who have been paying big premiums these many years for insurance against fire can now be robbed of their rights by some obscure clause like this. It has always been expected that a fire would follow an earthquake, and this was considered in taking out the policy. The companies always considered it when they issued a policy, and therefore it is in the nature of a fully-understood contract which, in spite of the lawyers, we are going to believe will be held valid by the courts, and that the men who have lost by fire will be decided to have a legal right to the payment of damages by the companies in which they were insured.

THE TYPE OF THE ISTHMIAN CANAL.

It may be regarded as virtually settled that the type of the Isthmian Canal will be some form of the lock system. The Senate has been taking voluminous testimony for months, but possibly the strongest factor in arriving at a conclusion is a letter from Chief Engineer Stevens, dated before the publication of the conclusions of the Isthmian Canal Commission, in which he stated that the whole engineering staff were unanimously in favor of a high-level lock canal. He did not find among all his engineering associates a single man in favor of the sea-level and many of them were actively hostile to it. He claimed that his and their conclusions should have the more weight, as they were derived from actual study upon the ground of all the conditions affecting the construction of the canal, and that they should greatly overbear theoretical opinions derived from ideal conceptions by men who never saw the Isthmus.

Representative Ernest W. Roberts, of Massachusetts, is a calamity-howler who has really something to howl about, and it is neither trusts nor graft. It is the gipsy-moth, far more dangerous to the country's wealth than fires, earthquakes, cyclones or floods. Massachusetts has spent more than \$1,000,000 in fighting the pest, which by destroying vegetation destroys real estate, and makes houses and buildings worthless. It has now spread from Massachusetts into adjoining States, and Mr. Roberts asks for an appropriation of \$65,000 to aid Massachusetts, and save the rest of the country. It would seem that his request is modest and reasonable.

THE PRESIDENT AND STANDARD OIL.

The President has given another illustration of his splendid courage in tackling the mighty Standard Oil, which he did in a special message to Congress last Friday. In a way it was absolutely necessary that he should do this, because, true or untrue, it is firmly believed by the mass of the people that the Standard Oil is the greatest and worst sinner of all the trusts and corporations. Unless it was brought under the fire of investigation all the other proceedings against trusts and combinations would seem more or less trivial. It would be said that the smaller game was being hunted, but the lion of the field was too terrible to tackle. In his message the President states squarely and boldly that the Standard Oil Company has, largely by unfair or unlawful methods, crushed out home competition, and is therefore a legitimate object for investigation and regulation. He says that the company has benefited enormously by secret rates, and has also been the recipient of gross favoritism in connection with open rates. He does not confine himself to generalities, but, taking Commissioner Garfield's report as a basis, he makes direct and specific charges, referring to that report to support these, and announces that the Department of Justice will take up the question of instituting prosecutions in certain cases which have been brought to the Government's attention. He says:

"It is not possible to put into figures the exact amount by which the Standard profits through the gross favoritism shown it by the railroads in connection with open rates. The rates, of course, comes not merely by the saving in the rate itself as compared with its competitors, but by the higher prices it is able to charge, and (even without reference to these higher prices) by the complete control of the market which it secures, thereby getting the profit on the whole consumption of oil in the country. The only way by which the discriminations can be cured is by conferring upon the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to take quick and effective action in regulating the rates."

The Standard Oil's managers have promptly and boldly replied to this challenge of the President. Messrs. Rogers and Archibald say:

"He (the President) has given us of his advice most generously upon every subject, and has also upon our families to the neglect of the Federal Judges, and some error is inevitable now and then to the most conservative man under such circumstances."

"The Standard Oil Company has been or is now knowingly engaged in practices which are unlawful in like untruthful and unjust."

"The President's message respecting this investigation, that the facts are not in dispute, only the inferences are disputed. The Standard Oil Company furnished the facts, and put up with a muck-rake dug out such as under his manipulation he felt would prove damaging."

"We are engaged in a large and honorable business, and we sincerely believe in conformity to law."

The first part of this is flippant, impudent and wholly unworthy of a discussion of this gravity. It is but just to the Standard Oil people to say, however, that they proceed to directly traverse the statements and conclusions of the President and Commissioner Garfield, and support their contention that they are proceeding with all proper respect for the law of which they are strong advocates. Among other things, they claim that they built their pipe lines, not in agreement with the railroads, but against their opposition, which seems more likely than the President's statement. Messrs. Rogers and Archibald say with propriety that they are entitled to the benefits which their enterprise in constructing the pipe lines won them.

The President makes a very practical and sensible recommendation that the Government should have power to examine into the conduct of the railroads as thoroughly as it now has the power to examine into the conduct of National banks. This is much preferable than to trust to the courts for regulation, since a lawsuit, while good in many ways, is a very inadequate method. His idea is that the Interstate Commerce Commission should have ample powers for examination and for mandatory orders to take effect at once, subject only to such action by the courts as is demanded by the Constitution. That is, the courts have the power, which cannot be taken from them, to interfere if the action of the Commission became in effect confiscatory, or if the Commission should attempt to go beyond the powers conferred upon it by Congress. The President's final recommendations are:

"It is highly desirable that an element of competition should be introduced by the passage of some such law, as that which has already been passed by the House, putting alcohol used in the arts and manufactures upon the free list. Furthermore, the time has come when no oil or coal lands held by the Government, and subject to the public use, or proper on-land territory owned by the Indian tribes, should be alienated. The fee to such lands should be kept in the United States Government, whether or not the profits arising from it are to be given to any Indian tribe, and the lands should be leased only on such terms and for such periods as will enable the Government to keep entire control thereof."

It was supposed that the vigorous efforts taken by the Government to head off any revolution in France would rebound to its injury in the election held last Sunday. The contrary has been the result, and by a decisive majority the people have approved of everything that was done. The ministerial candidates elected were 235, a gain of 32, while the opposition only elected 141 members of Parliament. The results of the election show, first, that the country strongly approves of the separation of Church and State, and, secondly, that the Socialist strength is declining instead of increasing. The French people want peace, and all things, and they will rally to the support of a Government that will take effective measures to maintain this.

HOBSON FOR PRESIDENT.

Of course, there is nothing in the Constitution of the United States or in the laws made in pursuance thereof to prevent any man who takes a fancy to the stunt running for President of the United States. That is one of the inalienable rights bought for us by our fathers upon the bloodstained fields of Monmouth and Trenton. Therefore, we can view with composure the fact that Capt. Richmond Pearson Hobson, of Alabama, has been so encouraged by his victory in securing the Congressional nomination that he soars to still loftier heights, and has begun a boom for himself for the Presidency. Capt. Hobson has several bases for his candidacy, which commend themselves highly to himself, and he thinks will be equally pleasing to the free and independent voters of the country. First, he is Capt. Hobson, which is a matter of immense weight to him, and naturally he thinks it is one of great importance to the 80,000,000 of his fellow-countrymen. Next, he sank the Merrimack in the Harbor of Santiago, and did a gallant deed in a very handsome and sailorlike way. If we were electing Presidents upon the basis of some one heroic deed, Capt. Hobson's chances would be very good. Next, he is a Democrat and young. In common with many millions of his fellow-countrymen he feels that it is high time for the Democracy to come out of the graveyards of the past and mingle in the active life of the present. Therefore, his entrance into the arena will be a clarion call for the young men of the Democracy to scough off the gray moss of a disastrous past and begin to read in that bright lexicon of youth in which there is no such word as fail. While we cannot promise his candidacy The National Tribune's support, he has our active sympathy. Hobson is a picturesque fellow of unbounded belief in Hobson, and liable to do things that will agreeably vary the monotony of the old stereotyped Presidential campaign. So more power to his elbow, and may he enter the next Democratic National Convention with hosts of untiried young Democrats behind him, whose wild vociferation for the hero of Santiago Harbor will give the Democrats something else to think about than issues which have long since been inscribed on the tombstones of a past dead beyond resurrection.

THE ILLINOIS PRIMARY LAW.

The Illinois Legislature is struggling with a new primary law with decided differences between the House and the Senate and between the Republicans and the Democrats. The proposed law is a highly-important measure, and expected to work decided reform in the manner of conducting elections. Among other things it will bring about the election of Senators by the people. The following are the main features of the bill decided upon by the Senate Republicans:

- "1. All primaries of all parties to be held on the same day throughout the State."
- "2. Polling places to be the same as under the general election law."
- "3. For the nomination of candidates by a plurality vote on a percentage basis, the candidate receiving 35 per cent of the total party vote to be declared the nominee."
- "4. That primary election expenses be paid as the expenses of general elections are now paid."
- "5. That the names of all candidates for United States Senator of their respective parties shall be placed upon the official primary ballot of such parties, respectively, for the sole and only purpose of ascertaining the sentiment of the voters of the respective parties."
- "6. That the bill shall provide only for the nomination of the County officers and the selection of delegates to the County Convention; Provided, That the names of the candidates for members of the Congress and the General Assembly shall be printed upon the official ballot and that the delegates to such Congressional and Senatorial Conventions shall vote for the candidate who receives the plurality of votes as given in the election of Districts or County, as the case may be."
- "7. That the names of candidates for delegates be printed on an official ballot, and provided for in the bill."
- "8. That County officers be nominated by a direct vote by a plurality of 35 per cent of the electors of such party voting at such primary election."

The main dispute seems to be among the advocates of majority, plurality and percentage plurality plans.

THE RATE BILL.

Another striking episode in the history of the Railway-rate legislation developed last week in the introduction of the following amendment in which it is said that Senator Allison wrote in the words which are in black type:

"The venue of suits brought in any of the Circuit Courts of the United States against the Interstate Commerce Commission to enjoin, set aside, or suspend any order, or requirement of the Commission shall be in the district where the carrier against whom such order or requirement may have been made has its principal office, and jurisdiction to hear and determine such suits is hereby vested in such courts."

Senator Dooliver denied that his colleague was the author of this amendment, and Senator Allison himself was ill at home and could not be seen to affirm or deny. It is believed that this amendment came about by a conviction at the White House that the Long amendment cannot secure the 45 votes necessary to pass it. The supporters of that amendment have not, however, abandoned hope, nor will they admit that there is any prospect of its being withdrawn.

How this new amendment will be viewed by the Democrats is a problem of the utmost interest. Senator Tillman says that if it is true that the President is supporting this amendment it is an abject surrender to the railroad interests, and other Southern Senators seem to concur in that view. It is therefore unlikely that any considerable Democratic strength can be mustered for its support. It is believed that the President still prefers the Long amendment, and if the temper of the Senate shows hopefully he may insist upon that being put through. If not, then the so-called Allison amendment will be offered instead. It was also said—everything is "also said," because there is nothing absolutely definite—that Senator Aldrich has given out that the Allison amendment can command votes enough to win. This means that the bill will be passed by Republican votes without any assistance from the Democrats.

HELP FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

While the news from San Francisco shows that the people are manifesting the bravest American spirit in going about rebuilding their city and are astonishing the world by their cheery pluck, yet it is equally manifest that they are singing the songs of hope and confidence upon very sad hearts, for everywhere around them is desolation and want. It cannot be otherwise where at least 100,000 people have lost their homes and their means of livelihood. Only the youngest and strongest have any capital, and that is in their strong hands and willing hearts. How about our aged comrades, whose hearts, willing enough, cannot be seconded by hands which are feeling the imperative weakening of age? The only thing that will save them from actual suffering is prompt and bounteous giving by their more fortunate comrades in the East. There is an effort to put all the contributions into one general fund, to be disbursed from central headquarters. As a general principle this is an excellent idea, but generous as has been the Nation's contributions, there is far from enough being received to meet the exigencies of the case, and thousands must go homeless and with scanty food. On the other hand, our comrades and their widows require special help outside of the general relief fund. Their age and weakness put them in a class by themselves, for which there must be an extraordinary provision. This can only be done by the comrades themselves directly through the machinery of the Grand Army of the Republic. Therefore, The National Tribune is sending all the money that it can raise to the Department Commander of California, to be by him disbursed through the G. A. R. Relief Committee directly to veterans and their widows and children. We believe this is the proper course for us to pursue and shall continue in it. We hope that every comrade in the United States will give something, and give it at once, because the urgency of the need is beyond any words to depict. The contributions so far received by The National Tribune are as follows:

Previously acknowledged.....	\$115.00
Mark Esler, Verona, Ill. R. F. D. 1.....	2.00
Robt. M. Gardner, Sycamore, Ill.	1.00
Mrs. L. A. Moore, Amherst, N. H.	1.00
Mrs. S. E. Carter, Amherst, N. H.	1.00
Peter Hermis, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Robert Bittel, North Sedgwick, Me.	2.00
Mrs. Rosa Updike, Fort Scott, Kan.	2.00
Albert C. Shaffer, Edgewood Park, Pittsburg, Pa.	1.00
J. H. Metcalf, Portbrook, Pa.	1.00
C. A. Gilbert, Elmer, Pa.	1.00
Gordon Murray, Toronto, Canada50
Alex. Baird, Toronto, Canada50
William Boyce, Toronto, Canada50
W. C. Boyce, Toronto, Canada	1.00
Neil Boyce, Toronto, Canada	1.00
W. S. Boyce, Toronto, Canada	5.00
Eva Boyce, Toronto, Canada	1.00
Comrade Boyce, 32d N. Y., Toronto, Canada	5.00
Given East, Worcester, O.	10.00
M. C. Callahan, Gree, Ford, Tex.	2.00
Robt. Sutor, New Cumberland, W. Va.	1.00
M. R. Martin, Detroit, Tex.	2.00
Total.....	\$158.00

SWINDLING SOLICITORS.

James Forbes, Special Mendicancy Officer for the New York Association of Charities, publishes a long warning to the public against the flood of solicitors for San Francisco. All sorts of crooks are going into the business—elegant young ones, selling tickets to some entertainment or other; clerically-clad men pretending to represent some great charitable organization; broken-down gamblers; "eggheads" of every description. These "human rats and weasels" fattened off the public at the time of the Galveston disaster, and their success then inspires them to greater efforts now.

Very proper State pride manifests itself in Senators Perkins and Flint, of California, and they are doubtful if California and San Francisco cannot manage their own finances without the help of the United States. Therefore, they are quite cool toward the resolution introduced by Senator Newlands, of Nevada, to extend the indorsement of the United States to the city of San Francisco. They would prefer that Congress pass their public lands claim, which aggregates about \$1,000,000; their war of the rebellion claims, aggregating \$4,000,000, and Indian war claims amounting to \$660,000. As the destruction of \$200,000,000 of San Francisco property represents about one-fifth of the taxable value of the State, the prompt payment of these claims by the United States would help the State greatly in meeting its liabilities for the maintenance of asylums, penitentiary and repairs of public buildings. Senator Newlands says, on the other hand, that a country that can spend \$200,000,000 in freeing Cuba and unnumbered millions on the Philippines can easily afford to lend its credit to the extent of from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 to help the greatest port of the Pacific Coast in its hour of distress.

The British insurance companies have made a great mistake in policy, if not in actual law, in their decision not to pay any losses incurred by blowing up buildings in San Francisco or other losses not directly due to fire. This implies a very narrow construction of their liabilities, and it is doubtful whether their decision will be sustained by the courts. They say they will pay nothing for earthquake damages where no fire ensued. This can hardly amount to much, however, since the fire raged all over the shaken portion of the city. As a matter of fact, it is unfortunate for the British companies, since it will probably force their withdrawal from the profitable field of San Francisco.

Representative Burton, of Ohio, seems to have been unscathed by the President's fierce denunciation of those members who would not vote for an increase of the Navy. Mr. Burton has made a strong speech insisting that the proposed enlargement is needless, and that the American Nation need not afford to serve notice on other Nations that it stands for arbitration and peace, and will not enter into the race for naval supremacy. Representative Butler, of Pennsylvania, spoke in opposition, and said that the Spanish-American war would never have occurred if we had three more battleships.

THE SUGAR TRUST.

The Sugar Trust, which stands in the same class with the Standard Oil as to the number and greatness of the complaints made against it, is now under fire. Its troubles have opened by the Federal Grand Jury in New York finding seven indictments against corporations and individuals for rebates secured from the trunk lines running out of New York. Six of these indictments are for giving or receiving rebates in violation of the Elkins law. One is against the New York Central Railroad, one against the American Sugar Refining Co., a third is against Nathan Guilford, Vice-President of the New York Central, for giving rebates; the fourth is against the American Sugar Refining Co. of New York, and Edgar & Earle, large wholesale sugar dealers in Detroit. The fifth and sixth indict the New York Central, Vice-President Guilford, General Traffic Manager F. L. Pomeroy, the American Sugar Refining Co. of New York, and Edgar & Earle, of Detroit. The seventh indicts Guilford, Pomeroy and Edgar & Earle for violation of the Interstate commerce law, and is regarded as the most serious of the seven. The penalty is fixed at a fine of from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for each violation and also imprisonment of not more than two years. Incidentally it is shown how completely the trusts have the railroads at their mercy. In 1903 the trunk lines refused to be held up by the trust, and for six months they had to run their cars empty while the smaller lines, taking roundabout courses, were heavily loaded with profitable traffic. Then the trunk lines surrendered to the trust.

In concluding its work the Grand Jury said that it had hurriedly gone over the matter, though it had devoted 16 sessions in April to this important subject, and it recommended that its successor take up the work which it would find abundant.

THE AGED CLERKS SHOW UP FINELY.

The furor caused by the introduction of the Tawney amendment against aged clerks in Government employ has done the unexpected good service of bringing the matter to a head. The public has heard so much about the great numbers of old and decrepit clerks in Government employ that it has feared that wheels would stop from the pervading senility. Naturally the Civil Service Commission was instructed to investigate and report to the President. Carefully prepared blanks were sent out to all the Departments, which information has now been received back, their information tabulated and studied, and reported to the President, who will probably soon make the report public. So far all that is given out is that the reports show above the age of 65. Of the 1,587 clerks above the age of 65, the oldest man in their service is 81 years. There is one who is 90. Three are 86, four 85; five, 84; six, 83; 12, 82; 14, 81; 18, 80; 19, 79; 25, 78; 23, 77, and 44, 76.

The quality of work done by these men is carefully graded, the results being: Excellent, 374; good, 682; average, 229; fair, 251; poor, 90.

This is a surprisingly good showing for the clerks of advanced years, though it was not unexpected by those who are personally acquainted with those men, and know the alertness of their minds and the rich store of experience and knowledge their long years have given them.

Now, it is in order to demand a similar report as to the clerks who are under 50. We risk nothing in predicting that it will fall short of showing that one-fourth of them are doing "excellent" work, and one-half doing "good," as is the case with those past 65.

NEGROES IN MISSOURI.

The negro population of Missouri is decreasing, and is far less in proportion to the white population than it has been at any time in the history of the State. Less than five per cent of the population of the State have negro blood in them, or not one person in 20. In two Counties, Schuyler and Reynolds, there are no negroes, and in about 14 other Counties there are less than a dozen. The negroes are found almost entirely in the large cities and in the older Counties along the Missouri River which were taken up by slave-owners from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. The largest population in proportion is in Howard County. As a rule, the negro has stayed close around the neighborhood where his father was brought as a slave, and if he left it was to go to some large city. Missouri has done well in the way of educating negro children, and maintains separate schools, wherever there are any number, for them.

The French revolutionists talk a whole heap through the papers, and at one time timid people felt that they were really going to make good, since the Third Republic had already lasted more than twice as long as any Government for a century, and therefore piled up twice as many things against it. The Third Republic has, however, showed itself far stronger than the First Empire, the Restored Monarchy, the Second Empire. It took such effective precautions that the dreaded "May days" passed off without even fair-sized riots.

The end is not yet in the Oregon land frauds, by any means. The Federal Grand Jury has added to the previous indictments and convictions 21 new indictments, involving that number of very prominent people of the State. These are for gross land frauds and include seven lumbermen, three bankers, two former officials, three editors, three lawyers and three business men. The particular offense is a conspiracy to secure 200,000 acres of fine lumber land in Brook, Lake and Klamath Counties, Ore. The bond of